

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 01281 131524Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08  
ARA-10 /092 W

-----041407 131536Z /75

O 131300Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8806

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1281

BRUSSELS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EFIN PINS MOPS CG LT

SUBJECT: ZAIRE: DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA OFFICIAL

REF: STATE 148408

1. SUMMARY: DURING CALL AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) JUNE 13, AND PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL, PERMSEC MASHOLOGU REACTED TO QUERY ABOUT ZAIRE BY EMPHASIZING (A) GOL OPPOSITION TO ALL OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING CUBA; (B) GOL PREFERENCE FOR OAU FORCE OR NIGERIANS ACTING ALONE; (C) IN ABSENCE OF AFRICAN ROLE, GOL'S RECOGNITION OF ZAIRE'S RIGHT TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN RESISTING SOVIET-FINANCED CUBAN SUPPORT FOR REBELS. GOL'S EXPECTATIONS OF OAU ASSUMING ITS PROPER ROLE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED BY REPORTS THAT OAU PRESIDENT BONGO MAY NOT ATTEND KHARTOUM SUMMIT CITING "INESCAPABLE PRIOR ENGAGEMENTS". END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MASERU 01281 131524Z

2. MY FIRST CALL THIS VISIT WAS ON MFA PERM SEC MASHOLOGU. DRAWING ON PREVIOUS INSTRUCTION (REFTEL HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED), I ASKED ABOUT GOL POSITION ON ZAIRE AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION. MASHOLOGU NOTED GOL'S PREFERENCE FOR OAU FORCE TO PROVIDE THE KIND OF ASSISTANCE FRANCE, BELGIUM AND NOW MOROCCO AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES WERE MAKING AVAILABLE WITH USG LOGISTICAL SUPPORT. GOL OPPOSES "ALL OUTSIDE INTERVENTION,

INCLUDING CUBA" WHOSE SOURCE OF SUPPORT IS NO SECRET TO ANYONE. MASHOLOGU RECOGNIZES ZAIRE'S RIGHT TO REQUEST OUTSIDE INTERVENTION TO COUNTER CUBAN PRESENCE WHICH, HE REPEATED, WAS SOVIET-FINANCED.

3. MASHOLOGU SPOKE OF GOL'S DESIRE FOR AN OAU FORCE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF OAU CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY GENERAL. UNTIL SUCH A FORCE IS CREATED, HOWEVER, THE OAU'S OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO REMOVE FOREIGN FORCES FROM AFRICAN CONTINENT. IN BOTH PREVIOUS OAU SUMMITS THERE WERE EFFORTS MADE TO REMOVE FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE FROM AFRICA BUT THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED DECLINED. MASHOLOGU SAID THE UNDERLYING OBJECTIVE AT KHARTOUM SHOULD BE TO "GET CUBAN FORCES OUT OF ANGOLA WITHOUT CAUSING NETO'S DOWNFALL".

4. MASHOLOGU VOLUNTEERED THAT PROSPECTS OF OAU ACTION WERE POOR AND CITED MESSAGES HE HAD SEEN FROM PRESIDENT BONGO STATING THAT HE COULD NOT ATTEND THE KHARTOUM MEETING ON GROUNDS HE HAD "INESCAPABLE PRIOR ENGAGEMENTS". GOL FOUND THE IDEA OF OAU PRESIDENT NOT ATTENDING THE SUMMIT MEETING TO BE BOTH "INCREDIBLE AND UNPRECEDENTED". GOL WAS EQUALLY ASTONISHED AT BONGO'S EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE DATE OF THE KHARTOUM MEETING BY TWO WEEKS (WITH CORRESPONDING ADVANCE IN MEETING OF MINISTERS). GOL TAKES THE VIEW THAT DATE OF OAU MEETING CANNOT BE CHANGED WITHOUT CLEAR APPROVAL OF HOST GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PARTIES.

5. MASHOLOGU SAID GOL HAS ITS OWN PRIVATE EXPLANATIONS FOR BONGO'S CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MASERU 01281 131524Z

ATTEMPTS TO ADVANCE AND/OR AVOID THE OAU SUMMIT: FIRST, IT BELIEVES BONGO RECOGNIZES HOW DIFFICULT ISSUES WILL BE, AND SECOND, BONGO'S CONCERN THAT, BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES, MANY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT MAY DECIDE NOT TO ATTEND. MASHOLOGU ADDED THAT, IN VIEW OF BONGO'S UNCERTAIN LEADERSHIP, DECISION AS TO WHETHER PRINIM JONATHAN WILL ATTEND THE KHARTOUM SUMMIT WILL BE MADE BY CABINET.

6. I HAVE APPOINTMENT JUNE 14 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLAPO AT WHICH TIME TALKING POINTS REFTEL WILL BE PURSUED. I HAVE ALSO REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH PRINIM JONATHAN.

7. COMMENT: THE ABOVE ANTI-CUBAN REMARKS COME FROM AN OFFICIAL WHO IS CONSIDERED TO BE NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO RADICAL AFRICAN STATES AND IS BELIEVED TO BE AMONG THOSE HELPING TO BRING ABOUT GOL-CUBAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HIS REPEATED OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF CUBAN AND RUSSIAN INTERVENTION INDICATES EITHER THAT HIS PERSONAL VIEWS AND THOSE OF GOL ARE DIFFERENT OR THAT HE IS AN EXTREMELY ABLE ACTOR. INCIDENTALLY, HIS ONLY COMMENTS ABOUT CUBA (A SUBJECT I DID NOT REPEAT NOT RAISE) WERE THAT SAG HAD BLOWN UP IMPORTANCE OF CUBAN MISSION VISIT (MASERU 1236) FAR BEYOND WHAT WAS MERITED. HE REFERRED ME TO RAND DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL OF JUNE 9

WHICH HE SAID REFLECTED GOL VIEWS.

8. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.  
NORLAND

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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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